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**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

Application No.	09/671,283	Confirmation No.	6590
Applicant	John A. Giordano et al.		
Filed	27 September 2000		
TC/Art Unit	1617		
Examiner	S. Wang		
Docket No.	48508-00004		
Customer No.	23767		

**AMENDMENT AND REPLY TO OFFICE ACTION UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.111**

MAIL STOP AMENDMENT  
Commissioner for Patents  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

In reply to the issues raised by the Examiner in the Office Action mailed 6 May 2004, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration of the pending rejections and reexamination of the present application in view of the following amendments and remarks.

Amendments to the Claims are reflected in the Listing of Claims, which begins on page 2 of this paper.

Remarks begin on page 4 of this paper.